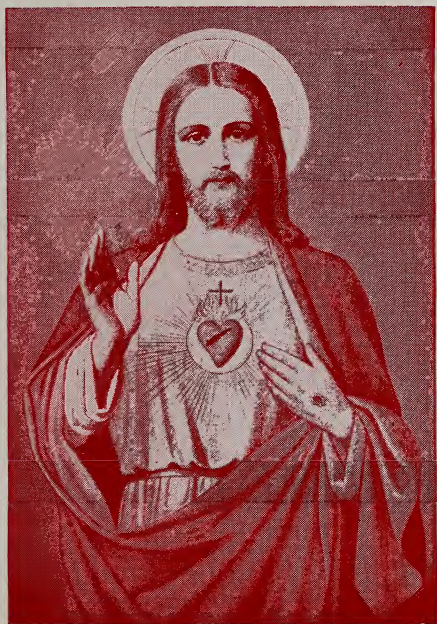


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Message of the Sacred Heart



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(Continued on inside back cover)

*Benedictine Convent of Perpetual Adoration
Clyde, Missouri*

Message of the Sacred Heart

To Priests, Religious and
all Devout Souls

“That in all things



God may be glorified.”

Holy Rule of St. Benedict.

Nihil Obstat ✠ Stephanus Schappler, O.S.B.
Abbas Coadjutor Im. Conceptionis

Imprimatur ✠ Carolus Hubertus Le Blond
Episcopus Sancti Josephi

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Benedictine Convent of Perpetual Adoration
Clyde, Missouri



"I thirst, I hunger for souls!"

Message of the Sacred Heart



History

FATHER Le Cerf, of the Society of Mary, was for ten years on intimate terms with a certain Father Nicolet, a Marist, who had been the rector of the priests' seminary in Brittany, France, for twenty years, and had labored with great zeal for the sanctification of the clergy. Later, Father Nicolet went to Rome, where he died in 1900. Father Le Cerf, while arranging the papers of the deceased Father Nicolet, found among them the "Message of the Sacred Heart" written in a strange hand.

The article pleased Father Le Cerf exceedingly, and with the approbation of the ecclesiastical authorities in Rome, he had copies of it printed and distributed. Father Le Cerf is acquainted with the author of the "Message," but does not express himself with regard to its supernatural origin. He is satisfied with its actual contents which are most opportune, and are worthy of our most profound consideration.

"This is Truly Beautiful!" — St. Pius X

When Father Le Cerf presented Saint Pius X with this "Message," during an

audience in 1910, the Holy Father said with kindly enthusiasm: "This is truly beautiful!" and encouraged Father Le Cerf to endeavor to circulate everywhere this singularly profitable meditation for priests.

A great number of bishops have personally procured thousands of copies of this joyful "Message" for their priests; also the rectors of seminaries, who find that this appeal of the Sacred Heart of Jesus proves most beneficial in fostering the interior life of seminarians and clergy. The superiors of religious orders declare that the repeated perusal of this "Message" inflames hearts again and again with love for God.

A famous Jesuit of Belgium recommends it at all retreats he gives to priests. In missions it is being propagated. The General Director of the Third Order had this "Message" entered in the hand-book of the Order. Benedictines, Franciscans, Trappists, Redemptorists, Lazarists, the Congregation of Missions, etc., to whom the "Message" was sent, all received it with joy. We ourselves have distributed thousands of copies.



The “Message”



“I am freezing! I thirst, I hunger for souls! Request My faithful priests to warm Me with their love! Souls, souls, souls is what I desire them to give Me! It is for the love of souls that I died! All the treasures of My Heart are opened. The more the nations turn away from Me and renounce Me, the more does My sweet Mother urge Me to reveal and pour out the treasures of love, of mercy, and the graces of salvation that are enclosed within My Heart.

“Devotion to My Sacred Heart is widely spread and is a consolation to Me, because by this devotion many souls are drawn and united to Me, the Savior of souls. Yet how little are the infinite treasures of My Divine Heart understood! My Blessed Mother earnestly petitions Me, and the love of My own Heart urges Me to distribute these treasures of grace, and to encourage pious souls to submerge themselves wholly in this ocean of mercy and love.

“Propagate this appeal of My Heart to the very limits of the earth; take it especially to My priests, whom I love so tenderly... to the priests, who are My other self... Oh, that they but realized the ardent desire I have to be united with each one of them individually! There are but few, however, who have attained to such a degree of intimate union of love with Me as My Divine Heart has made possible for them.

“And what is required for this union? Ah, very little: they need but unite all the affections and sentiments of their hearts and direct them entirely to Me, who am living and abiding deep down in the depth of their souls. Oh, proclaim it to all, from pole to pole: to those who labor for My sake in the icy North, to those who languish beneath the scorching sun of the tropics, to all My valiant soldiers fighting under My banner; proclaim it to those who day and night labor, exhausting their strength for the salvation of souls; to those who suffer persecution, hardship and repugnance for My Name—proclaim it to them and tell them how ardently I love them. Beseech them to heed the urgent

and loving appeal of My Heart which begs them to descend into the innermost depths of their souls, where they will find Me. Tell them to unite themselves with Me there, to become one with Me; then will they participate in all the treasures of grace I have promised.

“This mysterious Divine union of their hearts with My Heart will be for them the principle of a new life of sanctity, such as was never known to them before, an apostolate most fruitful. Many priests know well My doctrine regarding the union of souls with Me, and many strive to attain this union; but how few understand how to give practical proofs thereof! How few, even the most devout and zealous, of My best friends, vividly realize that I abide in their innermost hearts, burning with desire to unite them with Me!

“And why is this? Alas, because they are yet so exterior, and live, as it were, on the surface of their souls. If they would withdraw themselves from the allurements of the exterior world, in order to penetrate alone into the interior of their soul, deep down where I am dwelling, how easily could they find Me. What a life

of holy union, full of light and love, might they then live with Me!

“Many, many priests who otherwise are on the right path and are vigilant over themselves, here come to a standstill and do not take the step forward which would lead them to the ‘hidden treasure.’ Oh, that they would confidently turn to My Mother! She is also their Mother. How she loves My priests in particular! How willingly she intercedes for them! It is My Mother, yes, My sweet Mother, who implores Me so earnestly to open the treasures of My Heart and once more to extend this loving appeal to all faithful souls, especially to My good priests.

“She, My beloved Mother, is the bliss of My Heart. Let her likewise be your joy and bliss! But be it made known to you that this very Mother of Divine love possesses the secret of this wonderful union, a union which My Heart in a new, infinite effusion of mercy and love offers to all Its priests as a new and overflowing grace for the salvation and sanctification of souls.”

Remarks and Explanations Regarding This Message

The intrinsic truth of the foregoing "Message" is plain to everyone who has a lively faith in the words of Our Lord in the Gospel: I pray "that all may be one, even as Thou, Father, in Me, and I in Thee" (John 17:21). "He who eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood, abides in Me and I in him" (John 6:57). "I am the vine, you the branches. He that abides in Me... bears much fruit" (John 15:5).

This indwelling of Jesus in us, in our innermost soul, St. Paul experienced and so beautifully expressed: "It is now no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20).

Amid the distracting influences of the world, to which they are so often exposed, there is great need for priests and religious to remain united with the supreme Priest, Jesus Christ, living in their heart, and thence to draw strength and grace so that their **daily life may be a life with Jesus, in Jesus and through Jesus.**

The saintly Cardinal Mercier of Mechlin once penned to his seminarians these beautiful words: "Visible things, the exterior which attracts our attention, the change of politics and of history, are all but superficial events; they pass away like the scenes of a theatre. True realities, those which alone actually count and remain, are invisible. The true world which alone is important is in our interior: it is the kingdom of God, **'Regnum Dei intra vos est—**The kingdom of God is within you.' "

Behold in the "Message" a most urgent appeal of the Divine Heart for our love, our union with Him. Jesus would once more tell His ungrateful creatures how much He loves them, would press them to His Heart, remind them of all He has done for them, again try to touch their hearts and to save them. **Union, union through His Sacred Heart, is what He longs to have realized in souls, and especially in priests and religious.** The one great object of this "Message" is to lead souls to this life of union. "Oh!" exclaims Our Lord, "that they realized

the ardent desire I have to be united with every one of them individually! There are but few who have attained to such a degree of union of love with Me as My Heart has made possible."

Life of Union with Christ



Christ within Us Is the Source of True Piety

True piety consists in faith in the presence of God within us and in our union of love with Jesus Christ.

Descend, says the "Message of the Sacred Heart," **descend into the innermost depths of thy soul, where thou wilt find Me.** Our whole life should tend toward this: **God with us.**

Christ in us is the principle of our love; the kingdom of God is in our **interior**. True piety or godliness penetrates our inmost soul. Its aim is: **that God may increase in us and we decrease**; that God may become more and more manifest in us and our natural man more and more disappear, so that we live in God and God in us.

Then can we truly say with the Apostle: "It is now no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20).

St. Augustine says so beautifully: "Christ is the Center of our interior. From this Center He perceives what our hand does, what our tongue speaks, what our spirit thinks, what sentiments animate our heart. How cautious and devout should we be, therefore, knowing that we live constantly under the eyes of so holy a Master!"

And to the above remark, St. Anselm adds: "O Christian, does not the Apostle say that thou art the body of Christ? Preserve thy body and thy members in all honor. **Thy eyes are the eyes of Jesus Christ:** shouldst thou, then, direct thy eyes to vain things? **Thy lips are the lips of Jesus Christ:** shouldst thou open them, I do not say for frivolous and uncharitable words, but even for vain conversation? With what reverence, therefore, should we guard all our senses, all the members of our body, because Jesus Christ, our Lord, personally possesses and governs them."

This faith in Jesus Christ within us makes our piety cheerful and joyful. Christ within us helps us to carry our cross; true piety or "godliness is profitable in all respects, since it has the promise of the present life as well as of that which is to come" (1 Tim. 4:8). Oh, that **Jesus Christ, and His dwelling within us**, may be realized by us in this mortal life! With this knowledge, we have found the source of true piety and sanctity.

Whisperings of the Sacred Heart

I bear you a message, O soul whom I love!

Words cannot express how ardently I desire to take up My dwelling in a faithful soul. The Christian soul may be called the possession, the resting-place of My Divine Essence. Earthly language is inadequate to explain how vehement is My desire to descend into the human soul. I have formed your soul in order that I may erect My throne therein. To accomplish this I did not hesitate a moment to be fastened to the Cross and to shed all My Blood.

I cease not to call to man and crave to possess him, as if I could not be happy without My creature. And **what do I ask of him? Only his heart!** "My son, give Me thy heart!" In fact, the whole life of a Christian is nothing else **than a conversation of My Savior-Heart** with the soul, and of the soul with Me, its God.

I desire the human heart, and if the soul gives it to Me, then I speak to the chosen one: "Prepare thy heart for Me." And the soul responds: "My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready" (Ps. 56:8).

And I whisper to the soul I love: "Purify thy heart; **cleanse thy heart, for My love is infinitely pure.**" The soul cries to Me, her God: "Create a clean heart within me, O God! wash my heart in Thy Precious Blood. Purify it in the flames of Thy glowing love."

Once more I speak to the chosen soul: "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your heart and mind" (Phil. 4:7). The soul replies: "If armies in camp should stand together against me, my heart

shall not fear" (Ps. 26:3).

Oh, that My creatures would realize how I love the human heart! Remember, your heart is the masterpiece of My love; it is above all my works. In the whole creation, there is nothing to be found that is more exalted, more noble, more according to the likeness of My Divinity, than your heart, and **this heart I want from you—nothing else.**

Our Lord Rejoices to Dwell in the Faithful Soul

Is it not worthy of admiration that I, whose grandeur compasses thousands of worlds, delight to enclose Myself in so small an abode as your heart? **It is most essential for you to give your whole heart to Me as a palace wherein I may dwell.** Make a perfect and irrevocable gift to Me of your heart. Remove from this palace of your heart all that could offend My gaze, in order not to disturb My love and peace therein. O soul whom I love, this is all I ask of you, and as your God I have a right to ask it. **But I do not force your will.**

However, I give Myself entirely to you if you in turn give yourself entirely to Me. This is a truth so real and so important that it cannot be too frequently repeated. I am the King of glory, but I can only operate perfectly in a heart which aims to be free from all obstacles and gives itself entirely to Me.

The Sacred Heart, Our Infinite Treasure

O soul whom I desire to unite to My Sacred Heart, incline your ear and harden not your heart, but listen to the voice of your Savior.

My Heart is the **Holy of holies**; It is holy love itself. I desire nothing so much as to be known in order to be the Mediator between My Heavenly Father and your soul. My Heart is almighty to give peace, by turning away the punishment that your sins have deserved, and by obtaining mercy for you.

My adorable Heart is the fortress, **the secure refuge** for all who desire to take shelter therein, to evade the anger of Divine Justice. My Heart is the

throne of mercy before which the most miserable are the most graciously received, provided they come to this throne with love and confidence.

My amiable Heart is the **glowing furnace** in which souls become perfect and are purified like gold in the crucible. My Heart is the **abyss of all goodness**, the abyss of love in which you should forever have your dwelling place and your rest.

My Divine Heart is the **inexhaustible well-spring of mercy and compassion**, the fountain of living waters, the fruitful source of all blessing and grace, the unfathomable depth of all wisdom and all love for My elect.

My blessed Heart is the **hidden and infinite treasure** which desires only to be known, in order to pour Itself out over mankind and to communicate Itself to My creatures to enrich their poverty.

My Sacred Heart is the **holy abode of prayer**, a paradise of peace and joy, the sublime altar of your offerings. It is the refreshing repose in which souls are sheltered from the storms of earth.

Believe Me, O soul whom I love, My Savior-Heart is the most **precious coin**, which bears the stamp of the Divinity. I give It to souls to pay all their debts and with It they can make most profitable transactions for the affairs of their salvation.

What Our Lord Does Not Vivify in Us Is Lost

I am your Savior, Jesus. Listen, O soul whom I love! I am the breath of your mouth, the air which your soul inhales. Just as air is absolutely necessary for the natural life of your body, so am I, the spiritual and Divine air, necessary for the supernatural life of your soul. Therefore you should unceasingly desire and aim to draw Me to yourself. As a member of your body that is not animated by your soul has no life, so every action of your soul is dead and lost which I, your only Savior and true life, do not vivify in you. **If your thoughts, your affections, your words, your works, are not purified and sanctified by Mine, they are not pleasing in the sight of the most holy God.**

My prayers should animate your

prayers. If your prayers are not animated by My most holy prayers they are distracted and irreverent. Pray by means of My Heart. Imbibe My desires, love with My love, will with My will, and thus your prayer will always be heard, because it will be in accord with the Heart of your God.

Let My most holy actions animate yours. **Make use of My Heart and I will render your actions perfect.** Place all your works in My Heart as in a sacred refuge; I will transform and sanctify them by My Divine intentions. I will be the mainspring of all your actions and communicate to them My own infinite merits.

If your sufferings are not united to Mine and quickened by them, you will gather no merit from your trials; they will remain only tribulations. **Offer to Me all your sufferings, even the most trivial.** I will unite them to My Passion, and they will bear such glorious fruits that the elect in heaven will receive from them an increase of glory, the just on earth an increase of grace, sinners their pardon and the souls in purgatory

an alleviation of their pains. My Divine Heart is the source of all goodness in heaven and on earth; It can change all things for the better. Accept your sufferings with love and gratitude from My Savior-Heart. It is sweet and easy to do so! It is not a question of suffering **more**, but of suffering **better**, with more consolation and more fruit. You need only suffer in union with My adorable Heart. Let this henceforth be your habitual practice.

When this complete union with My Divine Heart becomes habitual, it enables you to arrive speedily at the height of perfection. Let your constant occupation and dearest desire be to inhale Me, Jesus Christ, your spiritual air, and desire to be permeated by it. Then exhale it again and send it back to the Father in heaven, in order that I may be your Mediator and High Priest, your sacrifice of reconciliation, praise and thanksgiving.

Jesus Prays in Us

O faithful soul, strive to attain this complete union with My Divine Heart;

then when you pray, I pray in you. Never forget this great truth: when you pray, you pray not alone. **I, Jesus, your Savior, pray in you and with you.** Yes, faithful soul, when you speak to God, you do so not only in My Name as your Mediator, but I, your Divine Mediator, pray to the Heavenly Father with you and in you. It is in My spirit you should pray, or more truly speaking, it is the Holy Spirit Himself who prays and sends up inexpressible sighs to the Father for your salvation. Then is your prayer a worthy homage to the exalted dignity and grandeur of God, an essential and indispensable practice of religion.

The most holy and wholesome exercise is to pray to the exalted Majesty of God with Me and in Me, your Savior Jesus. My Heart is that wonderful harp whose melody ravishes the ear of the Triune God; It is the holy altar on which your sacrifices and worship are rendered pleasing in the sight of the Most Holy. **If you pray through My Heart,** you pray in the most efficacious manner. Is not this a consoling truth?

Remember, O faithful soul, it is not only **you** who pray, who petition, and who humble yourself before God, but it is **I, your Savior Jesus**, the Founder and Perfecter of your faith, **who with you pray and supplicate, thank and glorify.**

My soul, art thou not burning with gratitude for this mercy of thy Savior? Art thou not ravished with delight at the thought of this wonderful effect of union with thy Jesus? O beloved Savior, how consoling to know that in reality my prayers are not mine, they are Thine, O good Jesus, and this union elevates them far above the earth and makes them heavenly.

The Faithful Christian, the Living Image of Jesus Christ

Remember, O faithful soul, sanctity is nothing else than My life in you. I am Jesus, your Savior; when I take up My abode in your heart, I transform it and make it according to the likeness of God. A holy person carries Me within himself, not only in his soul, but even in his very body. I, his Lord, am

the mainspring of his thoughts, his sentiments, his actions, yea, his very countenance reflects the dignity, the grace and the charm of Me, his Savior, to such a degree that the whole person of my servant is like unto a pure, transparent crystal through which beams My charming Divine figure, and this breaks through the thin veil of the body. I am Jesus, your Savior, the repairer of all your weakness. Glorious, indeed, are those weaknesses, excellent those imperfections which **give Me opportunity to exercise My office as Redeemer.**

O my soul, art thou not overcome by the goodness of thy Redeemer?

O beloved Savior, I am poor and weak. How often have I betrayed Thee, my Redeemer! I know I am incapable of anything good. But that does not depress me—I will go to Thee, my Jesus, Thou canst do all things. I know Thou **lovest** me. Thou dost **expect** me. Thou desirest to be my **helper**. Thou dost long to be my **riches**, the riches of my poverty. Thou dost yearn **to make my heart overflow with grace and love.** Oh, that I may

never forget what Thou dost desire to be to my soul!

Thou dost wish to be all to me, O good Jesus!—All, too, should I be to Thee. Therefore, it is Thy great concern that **I be nothing in myself** and that **I have nothing** of myself. My strength is to come from Thee, O good Jesus, and it is Thy joy to communicate Thy treasures, yes, to give Thyself entirely to me. Why, then, should I live in sorrow, anxiety and grief? Jesus, Thou art all mine. **Thou art all mine, and that is enough for me!**

St. Gertrude's Union with the Sacred Heart

St. Gertrude's life was one of most intimate union with the Sacred Heart. With It she praised the Triune God; she was taught by Our Lord to supply with It her negligences in the service of His Blessed Mother.

It was this life of union with the Sacred Heart that made St. Gertrude the beloved one of God. Hers was not a mere exterior veneration, it was the **union lived!**

“Gertrude, My chosen one,” spoke Jesus to St. Mechtilde, “lives always with Me, and seeks only to fulfil the good pleasure of My Heart. I gave Myself to her entirely. . . and now with full delight I repose in her. Love has united her inseparably to Me, as fire unites gold and silver to form a precious amalgam.” Gertrude gave all to Jesus, who was able to say of her with delight, “She has given Me all without reserve for the salvation of the world.” And in return He gave all to her—His Divine Heart, which became the heart of Gertrude. Oh, the union! the unity of Gertrude’s heart with that of her Beloved!

In the thousands of European convents during the Middle Ages, religious life was at its zenith. In St. Gertrude’s convent alone lived five contemporary saints. What caused religious life to flourish? What was the secret of its sanctity? — It was the interior life which the religious practiced most zealously. But in the course of centuries this interior life sadly deteriorated. **Our Lord made a new effort to gain the**

love of man by **His** revelations to **St. Margaret Mary**. Since then a new impetus has been given to devotion to the Divine Heart, a new light has been diffused, teaching souls that **the most powerful way to reach the Heavenly Father is through the medium of the Sacred Heart of His Divine Son.**

The mission of **St. Margaret Mary**, however, seems rather to have for its object the **exterior and official worship** of the Sacred Heart, while that of **St. Gertrude** aims more at its **interior and mystical character**. **St. Gertrude** presents the mysteries of the Sacred Heart in a more complete and practical manner; she also gives a more attractive and encouraging form to this devotion.

Jesus Desires This Life of Union

What the Heart of **Jesus** wishes most from us is this life of union. He has opened His Heart to us for this purpose. How plaintive is His cry: "My child, give Me thy heart." He begs for our affection! He needs our love in order to satisfy His own! Oh, let us give Him what He desires! Let us live

with Him that life of union so glorious for God, so sweet and fruitful for our souls and so powerful for us to obtain graces for our brethren. "One loving soul," said a heavenly messenger to St. Gertrude, "obtains more from God for all the living and departed than ten thousand who are cold and unloving."

It is the interior union Our Lord most earnestly craves. This He indicated to a latter-day confidante of His Heart, Mother Mary of the Divine Heart, a Good Shepherd religious, who died in the odor of sanctity on June 8, 1899. "He (Our Lord) declares," said this venerable nun, "that since the exterior cult of His Divine Heart has been introduced by His apparitions to Saint Margaret Mary, He now desires the establishment of the interior cult, that is, that souls grow in the habit of **uniting themselves interiorly ever more and more with Him**, offering Him their hearts as an abiding resting place."



Prayers



A Prayer to Our Lord Jesus Christ to Change Our Heart and Give Us His

O most noble, most compassionate, most sweet, most loving, most faithful Heart of Jesus, my Savior and my God, for Thy greater glory and for the perfect accomplishment of Thy most holy will, draw into Thyself and absorb in Thee, my heart, my thoughts and my affections, all the powers of my soul and my body, all that is in me, all that I am, all that I can do. O most merciful Lord Jesus Christ, I commend myself to Thy Heart and give myself wholly to Thee.

Through Thy most kind Heart, I beseech Thee to draw my heart wholly into Thine. Bury it in Thine, so that it may be so absorbed into and united to Thy Heart, that I may no longer have any heart but Thine. Take from me my wicked, ungrateful heart, and give me Thy Divine Heart, or at least make my heart like Thine, that I may think of, know and desire only Thee.

O Lord God, my Savior and my Redeemer, blot out my sins and all in me

that offends Thee. Take from Thy Heart and put into mine all that Thou wouldst find in me. Transform me and possess me. Let my heart be united to Thy Heart, my will to Thy will, in order that I may never will aught else but what Thou willest and what is pleasing to Thee. O sweet Jesus, my God, may I love Thee with all my heart, in all things and above all things. Amen.

For a New Heart

O my most sweet Jesus, open to me the door of Thy Heart, which is the gate of mercy, the entrance to life, the source of grace! Through the precious Wound of Thy Side, draw my heart into Thee. Let it enter into the depth of Thy infinitely loving Heart, even into the sanctuary of Thy Divinity. Receive me into Thy Heart, the entrance to which has been opened for me by the soldier's spear. Be not angry, O my good Master, with a miserable and ungrateful sinner like me for my presumption in asking Thee to take from me my wicked heart, so often rebellious and cowardly, and to give me in place of it another heart. O my Jesus, give me Thine, or a heart like Thine, a loving, faithful, pure,

docile and compassionate heart. Wash this new heart in Thy Blood, inflame it with Thy love, absorb it into Thy Heart and make it ever one with Thee. Amen.

Invocations with an Act of Oblation

Heart of Jesus in the Eucharist, sweet
Companion of our exile, I adore Thee:
Heart solitary, Heart humiliated,
Heart abandoned, Heart forgotten,
Heart despised, Heart outraged,
Heart ignored by men,
Heart, lover of our hearts,
Heart pleading for love,
Heart patient in waiting for us,
Heart eager to hear our prayers,
Heart desirous that we should pray to Thee,
Heart, source of fresh graces,
Heart silent, desiring to speak to souls,
Heart, sweet refuge of the hidden life,
Heart, teacher of the secrets of union with
God,
Heart of Him who sleeps, yet ever watches,
Have mercy on us.

Jesus Victim, I wish to comfort Thee;
I unite myself to Thee, I offer myself in
union with Thee; I count myself as nothing
before Thee; I desire to forget myself in

order to think of Thee, to be forgotten and despised for love of Thee, not to be understood, not to be loved except by Thee. I will hold my peace that I may listen to Thee, I will forsake myself that I may lose myself in Thee.

Grant that thus I may slake Thy thirst for my salvation, Thy burning thirst for my sanctification, and that, being purified, I may bestow on Thee a pure and true love. I would no longer weary Thine expectation; take me, my actions, my mind that Thou mayest direct it, my will that Thou mayest establish it, my misery that Thou mayest relieve it, my soul and my body that Thou mayest feed them.

Heart of my Jesus, whose Blood is the life of my soul, may it be no longer I that live, but Thou alone who livest in me. Amen.

Heart of Jesus, Victim of charity, make me a living sacrifice to Thee, holy and pleasing to God.

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